

## APPENDIX B. CONTINUED

### Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway (SACN)

**Establishment:** Upper Saint Croix in 1968; Lower Saint Croix in 1972.

**Designations:** National Scenic Riverway. Designated a Class II airshed.

**Purpose and significance statements important to ecological monitoring:**

- The primary significance of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is its relatively free-flowing, near primitive ecological condition. The Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968 declares: "... certain selected rivers... shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected..."
- The riverway is one of the most diverse NPS units in the Midwest with over 80 state and federally listed plants and animals.
- There are 38 – 40 species of freshwater mussels including two federally listed species.

**General description:** The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway protects 92,735 acres including 252 miles of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers in eastern Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. The park spans three major biomes: boreal forest, eastern deciduous forest, and oak and pine savanna. The rivers themselves, and the riparian zones along them, greatly influence the biotic communities. Wetlands are common throughout the park. The park is divided into two distinct management zones: the upper St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers, and the lower St. Croix River. Numerous private, state, county, and other federal landowners along the corridor make management of access and resource use complex.

**Visitation and human uses:** About 480,000 visitors come to the riverway annually, primarily to canoe, fish, and swim along the miles of river.

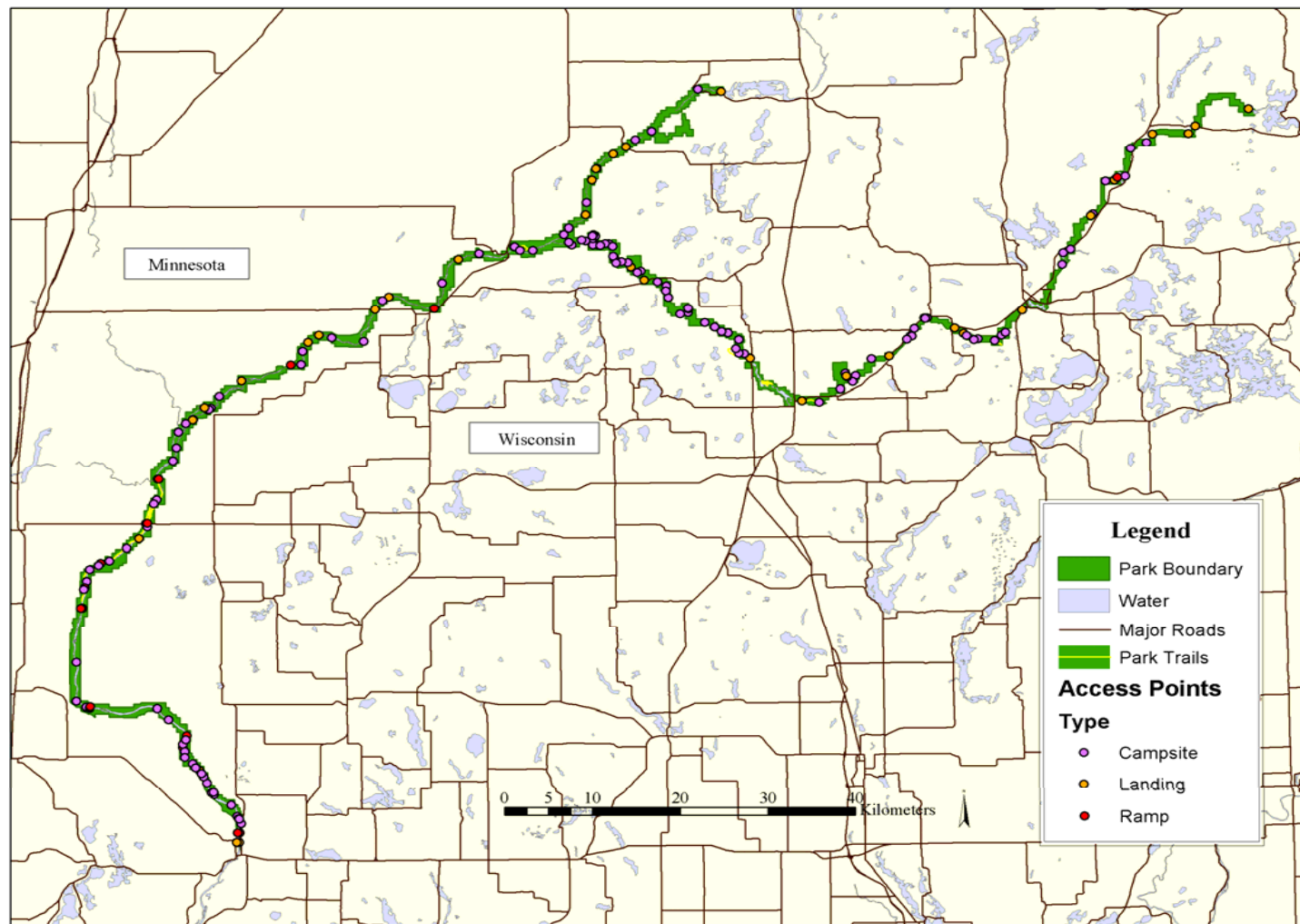
**Critical resources:** High water quality is found throughout the riverway and the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers are listed as "Outstanding" or "Exceptional Water Resource" by Minnesota and Wisconsin. Gray wolves are returning to the region and self-sustaining packs are known to reside in the northern portions of the riverway. The forested areas are slowly returning to pre-European settlement conditions, and monitoring the progression is integral to understanding terrestrial communities.

**Primary threats:** Airborne pollutants, waters contaminated with toxic waste, exotic plants and animals (especially exotic mussels), diseases spread from domestic animals, land use practices outside the boundaries in the upper end of watersheds, potential for some over-harvesting of fish, and urban sprawl along the lower section of the St. Croix River.

**Important management documents:** The General Management Plan for the upper St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers was completed in 1997 and the Cooperative Management Plan for the lower St. Croix River is near completion in 2001. The Resource Management Plan was completed in 2000.

**For important park monitoring reports see Supplemental Document #3**

## APPENDIX B. CONTINUED



Map of the northern portion of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and surrounding area.

## APPENDIX B. CONTINUED



Map of the southern portion of St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and surrounding area.